

United States should redouble its efforts to reduce our vulnerability to terrorist attack. These are important issues to keep at the forefront of U.S. policy in the weeks and months ahead.

Overall, the resolution presents a reasonable approach to a difficult issue, and I believe that it reflects many of the concerns that I am hearing from my constituents in Wisconsin. Their voices and their questions belong at the center of our discussion about Iraq. I believe that this resolution helps to move my constituents' very serious concerns closer to that central role.

AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, I am pleased to join with my Maryland constituents and millions of Americans in celebrating African-American History Month this February.

Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in 1915. Shortly after its creation, the Association began a campaign to establish Negro History Week to highlight the many accomplishments of African Americans. Dr. Woodson achieved this goal in 1926, and the second week of February was chosen to recognize the contributions of African Americans to American society. In 1976, this week of observance was expanded to a month and became African-American History Month. This month of observance is a time to recognize a crucial part of our diversity: the vast history and legacy that African Americans have contributed to the founding and building of our Nation. While we have much to celebrate in the achievements of many African Americans and the great strides this country has made towards true equality, there is also much work to be done.

Each year, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, ASALH, designates a theme for the Black History Month observance, and this year it is "The Souls of Black Folk: Centennial Reflections." This year's theme focuses on the past contributions of African Americans and the many significant ways in which African Americans have made our Nation better.

At the beginning of the last century, our Nation was a vastly different place than it is today. The country was divided along racial lines and racism was accepted and institutionalized. African Americans were not allowed to vote, and the opportunities available to African Americans were few. Today, thanks to the visions of a few and the sacrifices of many, that situation has changed.

Much of the last century was filled with hardship for African Americans. Despite this, African Americans made great strides in many areas and participated in every sector of our society. Throughout the past 100 years, African Americans have made remarkable con-

tributions to our society as mathematicians, scientists, novelists, poets, politicians, and members of the armed services.

Regrettably, just this year we lost two Marylanders who contributed much to African-American and American history in the last century, Du Burns and Bea Gaddy. Du Burns was the first African-American mayor of Baltimore. He brought the city together and although he ultimately became mayor, he never forgot his humble beginnings, including a job as a locker room attendant at Dunbar High School. Bea Gaddy was an advocate for the homeless and a Baltimore City Council member who devoted her life to feeding hungry Baltimoreans and making Baltimore a better place to live. We will forever remember the sacrifices and achievements of these two remarkable people.

No discussion of the last century in the lives of African Americans could be complete without a tribute to Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birthday we recently celebrated. His teachings and the example of his life offer much for us to be hopeful about in the coming century. We must look to his words and deeds to remind ourselves of his great vision and must never forget the profound change he helped bring about in this country. His teachings transcend race, and we have much to learn from him about humanity as we confront the challenges of the new century. And the challenges are many. We must continue to work to eliminate racism and inequality, and we must work to combat intolerance, not just in our own country, but throughout the world.

Last year, the theme of African-American History Month posed the question, Is Racism Dead? Unfortunately, the answer is still no. There is much that we in Congress can do to continue to meet the challenges of inequality in our country. We can help the parents of working families by raising the minimum wage. We have already passed the Leave No Child Behind education reform bill that will provide new standards for schools and teachers and will help make quality education available to all Americans. We have passed an election reform bill to ensure that all voters are properly registered and every vote is counted. We must now fully fund these initiatives that have successfully passed Congress. And we need to make health care available and affordable for African Americans and all Americans.

Through the lessons and struggles of the last century and the trying first few years of this century, Americans have shown the world how people of all races, colors, religions and nationalities create the fabric of our Nation, a fabric that is richer because of our differences. This month, we honor the special contribution African Americans have made to that fabric. Through African-American History Month, we celebrate how far this country has come

and remind ourselves of how far we have to go.

THE PRESIDENT'S HIV/AIDS INITIATIVE

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I commend our President for the historic commitment to fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic that he articulated in the State of the Union address.

As a 10-year member of the Senate Subcommittee on African Affairs—and over half of those years have been as either the ranking minority member or the chairman—I have seen the terrible unfolding of the pandemic. I have read and repeated the numbing statistics that grow more horrifying every year. I have met with orphans, the sick, the dying, the mourning. I have met with doctors and nurses overwhelmed by the task before them, public health officials impassioned in their pleas for more assistance, volunteers aching for the plight of the children they care for each day.

I believe that I understand the magnitude of this crisis as well as anyone can comprehend something so big and so devastating.

And I also understand that what the President promised to do is a vast leap forward, a truly visionary step toward doing what is right. It is in our interest, and in the interest of global stability. But it is also simply the right thing to do, to refuse to turn away from human suffering on a grand scale, to take action, to set meaningful goals and provide the resources and the will to achieve them. This is a noble undertaking. It is a constructive and humane act at a time when, too often, we feel surrounded by the forces of destruction. The President deserves our praise. I hope that his words will be transformed into action soon.

Congress certainly will be interested in understanding how the Administration plans to phase in additional spending, because the need is urgent and we cannot keep pushing our responsibility off into the future. It is critically important that pressing humanitarian and development priorities will not be robbed to finance this important initiative. And I hope that we take greater advantage of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and malaria than we have in the past so that we can leverage our dollars for maximum impact.

But the bottom line is that this is a truly historic step, which is the only appropriate response to a historic crisis. We should celebrate this initiative. And then we should roll up our sleeves get to work on making it as effective as possible.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

BURN AWARENESS WEEK

• Mr. BREAU. Mr. President, I ask our colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of National Burn